

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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R 201105Z FEB 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3272

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0197

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT AO

SUBJECT: FNLA PRESIDENT ROBERTO TALKS TOUGH TO MPLA

1. SUMMARY. IN A MAJOR SPEECH HOLDEN ROBERTO DIRECTLY ATTACKED THE ORGANIZATIONAL BASIS FOR MPLA IN LUANDA, THE PEOPLES' NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEES, AND WARNED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF CIVIL WAR IF THESE COMMITTEES ARE NOT IMMEDIATELY DISBANDED. END SUMMARY.

2. ON FEBRUARY 15 FROM KINSHASA HOLDEN ROBERTO MADE HIS FIRST SPEECH TO BE CARRIED IN ANGOLA. HIS TONE WAS STRIDENT AND MILITANT. THE INTENT OF THE SPEECH WAS CLEARLY TO CHALLENGE MPLA AND TO ASSERT FNLA'S POWER IN LUANDA.

3. THE THEME OF THE SPEECH, AS WELL AS OF SUBSEQUENT FNLA PUBLIC STATEMENTS, WAS TO ATTACK AND DISCREDIT "POPULAR POWER" (PODER POPULAR) AND THE NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEES THAT HAVE BEEN SET UP THROUGHOUT LUANDA'S BLACK GHETTOES BY MPLA IN AN EFFORT TO ORGANIZE THE MASSES. ROBERTO DESCRIBES THE COMMITTEES AS "EMBRYONIC SOVIETS" WHOSE PURPOSE IS TO ESTABLISH A "DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT" THAT WILL TAKE AWAY THE NEWLY WON INDEPENDENCE OF THE PEOPLE AND SUBSTITUTE RULE BY A DEMAGOGIC FEW.

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4. ROBERTO ALSO STRONGLY CONDEMNED THE "GRAVE AND DANGEROUS"

ATTACK OF MPLA UPON CHIPENDA HEADQUARTERS IN LUANDA ON FEBRUARY 13 AND WARNED THAT MPLA WAS "PLAYING WITH FIRE." HE EMPHASIZED THAT MPLA'S UNILATERAL ACTION IS IN "FLAGRANT CONTRADICTION OF THE TEXTS" OF THE ACCORDS OF MOMBASA AND ALVOR.

5. IN A REFERENCE TO BOTH "POPULAR POWER" AND THE ATTACK ON CHIPENDA'S FORCES IN LUANDA, ROBERTO WARNS THAT THESE ARE "A PRELUDE TO WHAT COULD HAPPEN TOMORROW, THAT IS, A GENERALIZED CIVIL WAR." HE CHARACTERIZES THESE AS "CYNICAL, DELIBERATE AND SUBVERSIVE ACTS" THAT COULD CAUSE THE BLOOD OF INNOCENT PEOPLE TO BE SPILLED AGAIN.

6. WHILE THE SPEECH IS LONG ON VIOLENT RHETORIC, ROBERTO FAILED TO SPECIFY WHAT STEPS FNLA WOULD TAKE IF THE COMMITTEES WERE NOT DISBANDED. BY THE SAME TOKEN HE DID NOT TAKE UP CHIPENDA'S CAUSE NOR ALLUDE TO ANY UNION WITH CHIPENDA. NEVERTHELESS, THE LINES OF A CONFRONTATION BETWEEN MPLA AND FNLA HAVE BEEN MORE SHARPLY DRAWN THAN EVER AND FURTHER VERBAL CONFRONTATION OVER THE STATUS OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEES CAN BE EXPECTED. WE FEEL FNLA IS LIKELY TO EVENTUALLY RESORT TO FORCE TO ELIMINATE THESE COMMITTEES IF AN ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE CANNOT BE ACHIEVED. THE FNLA MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR DEMANDED THE IMMEDIATE DISBANDING OF THE COMMITTEES (SEPTEL) AND HE PROBABLY WILL TAKE DIRECT ACTION.

7. SOURCES HERE TELL US THE SPEECH WAS WELL RECEIVED BY THE GENERAL POPULACE.  
KILLORAN

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